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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

United States Centennial Commission,

Philadelphia, August 1872.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 28, 1872.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the United States Centennial Commission was held at noon yesterday, in the rooms of the commission, Continental Hotel.

There were present Hon. Daniel J. Morrell, chairman; Professor William P. Blake, executive commissioner; Colonel W. Wood, of Virginia; Robert H. Lamborn, of Wyoming, and John L. Shoemaker, counselor of the commission.

Letters were read from Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn, of New York, and Hon. Prescott Smith, of Maryland, stating that they would arrive this evening.

John G. Stevens, of New Jersey, being now in Europe, could not attend.

Commissioners Corliss, of Rhode Island, and John Lynch, of Louisiana, sent letters regretting their inability to be present, and making valuable suggestions concerning the business before the committee.

After some preliminary routine business the question of inviting the Centennial Committees of the Board of Trade, Commercial Exchange, Franklin Institute, Drug Exchange and other bodies, editors, and prominent citizens interested in the work, to meet the committee, was considered and a list prepared. This meeting, to be held on Thursday noon, at the Common Council Chamber, is intended to be for consultation and a general expression of views concerning the best methods of advancing the work of the Centennial Commission.

A general statement of progress will, probably, be made to the meeting, considerable work having been done by the executive and other committees since the last general meeting of the commission in May.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 29, 1872.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT THE CONTINENTAL YESTERDAY—THE MEETING TO BE HELD TO-DAY.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the United States Centennial Commissioners was held yesterday in Parlor No. 16 of the Continental, Hon. D. J. Morrell in the chair.

In addition to those present at the meeting of the day previous, Hon. Prescott Smith, of Maryland, and Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn, of New York, were in attendance.

The question of the adoption of rules providing for the organization of the Centennial Board of Finance and the distribution of stock was under discussion for several hours.

The European expositions, and particularly the one held at Vienna, have been discussed at length in an informal manner, and it is the expressed desire to learn from all of them their best features, and to escape their defects in our coming Exposition of 1876.

A meeting will be held in the Common Council chamber at noon to-day, to which editors and leading citizens are invited to discuss the prospects of the Great Exposition.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 30, 1872.

Our Nation's Birth---The Centennial Celebration in 1876---Movement to Promote its Success---Consultation Meeting in this City---Views of the Commissioners and Others---Philadelphia to Take the Initiatory Steps---How the Project is to be Carried Out---The Centennial Board of Finance---Rules for the Issuing of Stock---Funds Required for Preliminary Work---Our Government and the Austrian Exposition---Letter from an American in Vienna.

The Executive Committee of the United States Centennial Commission met at noon yesterday, in the Common Council chamber, for the purpose of consulting with the various committees of City Councils, Board of Trade, Commercial Exchange, Drug Exchange, Franklin Institute, Board of Brokers, Park Commission, Historical Society and other bodies, newspaper editors, merchants and others, upon the best method of promoting the success of the centennial celebration. The meeting was a large one, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings.

Among the prominent gentlemen present were the following:—

Hon. D. J. Morrell, of Pennsylvania; Hon. Leonard Myers, of Pennsylvania; Messrs. John V. L. Pruyn, of New York; Samuel Powel, of Rhode Island; John S. Adams, of Florida; Andrew J. Sweeney, of West Virginia: Robert H. Lamborn, of Wyoming; Wm. P. Blake, of Connecticut; Hon. W. Prescott Smith, of Maryland; Colonel Walter W. Wood, of Virginia; Colonel Daniels, of Richmond, Virginia; Senator John Scott, of Pennsylvania; H. T. Darlington, of Chester county; Hon. Seth I. Comly, collector of the port; Messrs. Henry Lewis, J. B. Lippincott, N. B. Browne, William W. Harding, J. F. Orne, John M. Clayton, Edward Shippen, Colonel J. Ross Snowden, ex-Mayor Fox, Stephen Anderson, James M. Robb, Frederick Fraley, James L. Claghorn, J. H. Michener, John Rice, Samuel G. King, S. E. Malone, Joseph R. Wilkins, Jr., vice president of Board of Brokers; J. E. Mitchell, E. Pennington, Uriah H. Painter, S. W. Cattell, Dr. Morwitz, E. W. C. Greene, John L. Shoemaker, General Louis Wagner, Hon. William B. Mann, Messrs. Henry Bumm, Charles M. Hall, John Fareira, Major Clayton McMichael, Major Joseph F. Tobias, Samuel L. Smedley, chief engineer and surveyor; George A. Smith, Gustavus Remak, John R. Dungleson, John Wanamaker, Edwin H. Fitler, Henry Glass, Dr. De Dobeler, J. E. Kingsley, William V. McGrath, Mr. Clothier, of the firm of Strawbridge & Clothier, and others.

Called to Order.

At a quarter past twelve o'clock Hon. D. J. Morrell called the assemblage to order, and stated that the meeting was of an informal character, intended for consultation upon the best method of promoting the success of the centennial celebration. No roll will be called, but the minutes of the last meeting will be read.

Mr. B. H. Haines, clerk, then read the minutes of the previous meeting, after which the

Hon. D. J. Morrell

Again addressed the gathering. He said that, at the outset, the commission found itself embarrassed in not having funds with which to carry on the great undertaking. In March a meeting of citizens of Philadelphia was called to consult on this question. The result was the passage of an act by Congress, creating a Board of Finance, which was empowered to raise $10,000,000, to carry out the purposes of the original act. This was on June 1. The commission then delegated to the Executive Committee the duty of executing the provisions of that act, the opening of books for subscription and all other necessary work.

Since then we have been doing what we could in that direction. We now find ourselves again embarrassed in not having the funds by which we can pay the expenses which must be incurred in the preliminary work of organizing this board of finance, and we again ask the citizens to counsel with us and take measures to relieve us of the difficulty. Knowing the great interest of Philadelphians in the movement we invite their suggestions as to the best means of obtaining temporary aid. I am personally sanguine of the success of the exhibition, more so than some of my colleagues in the commission. I have said that Pennsylvania alone would furnish all the means required, and I want the citizens of Philadelphia to make good my predictions in the matter. The people are heart and soul with us in the movement, and all they want is the assurance that we will faithfully perform our part of the great work. I desire that Mr. John L. Shoemaker, chairman of the Council Committee on Celebration, will address us, and after his remarks an opportunity will be given to our friends in the city to speak on this subject.

Remarks of John L. Shoemaker.

Mr. Shoemaker said:—

Mr. Chairman:—This enterprise has already assumed such vast proportions that any general detailed account of its progress and necessities would, I fear, occupy considerable time.

I would therefore suggest that probably the best way to bring before this meeting the subject most requiring immediate attention will be to have read the second, third, fourth and sixth sections of the act of Congress incorporating the Centennial Board of Finance, and the rules which have been prepared by your committee for the purpose of carrying into operation the provisions of that act.

After these papers have been read, the meeting would no doubt prefer to hear from some of the distinguished gentlemen composing the United States Centennial Commission who are present from other States, and I would suggest first the name of Hon. John V. L. Pruyn, Commissioner for the State of New York.

The clerk then read sections from the act of Congress which provides for the issuing of $10,000,000 of stock for the expenses of the exhibition.

Board of Finance and The Rules.

The clerk then read the following rules, providing for the organization of the Centennial Board of Finance, &c.:—

Preamble, Whereas, By the third section of an act of Congress, entitled "An act relative to the Centennial International Exhibition, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1876," approved June 1, 1872, it is provided, That books of subscription shall be opened by the United States Centennial Commission under such rules as it may prescribe, and an opportunity shall be given, during a period of one hundred days, to the citizens of each State and Territory, to subscribe for stock of the Centennial Board of Finance incorporated by said act, and authorized to issue stock to an amount not exceeding ten millions of dollars, in shares of ten dollars each, and to be offered to the several States and Territories in the ratio of their population;

Now, therefore, The United States Centennial Commission, in pursuance of the authority contained in said act, do adopt and establish the fol-

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lowing rules for the opening of books of subscription to the stock of the said Centennial Board of Finance, to enable absent stockholders to vote by proxy, and to provide for the organization of said corporation.

Rule 1. Books of subscriptions for stock of the Centennial Board of Finance, will be provided by the commission, containing blank subscription certificates, forms of subscription and marginal record, as follows:—

CENTENNIAL BOARD OF FINANCE.

Subscription Certificate,

No. .....

Place .....

Date 187

.....Share Par Value, $10

I have this day received from .....Agent, the above-mentioned subscription certificate for.....Share of Stock of the Centennial Board of Finance, and have paid..... dollars thereon.

.....
(Name of Subscriber.)

.....
(Post Office Address.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Certificate of Subscription for Stock of the Centennial Board of Finance.

—o—

Capital Stock, $10,000,000.....Shares, $10 each.

Subscription Certificate No. .... State of .....

THIS CERTIFIES That.....has subscribed for and paid.....Dollars upon .....Share of the Capital Stock of the Centennial Board of Finance, incorporated by an Act of Congress approved June 1, 1872.

The holder of this Subscription Certificate is entitled to one vote upon each share it represents, and to receive a Certificate of Stock from the Centennial Board of Finance upon the surrender of this certificate to the said corporation and the payment of the balance due upon the subscription.

Payments on this stock are to be made as follows:—Twenty per cent. on subscription, and the balance in four equal installments. The first installment to be paid on or before the first Monday of May, 1873, and a further installment on or before the first Monday of each alternate month thereafter, until all are paid.

Dated at.....this.....day of.....1872.

Name of Agent.....

Rule 2. Subscription certificates prepared under the foregoing rule, shall be sent to the agency in each State and Territory in the ratio of population, as hereinafter provided.

Rule 3. Each subscription certificate, and the marginal blank to which it is attached, shall be numbered in consecutive order. The numbering for each State and Territory shall be contained within certain limits, the lowest and the highest number being fixed for each, as, for example, Wyoming, 1 to 236; Arizona. 237 to 500, and so on, as may be proper when the books are issued, the object being to prevent any repetition of numbers, and, at the same time, to permit the independent issue of numbered scrip at different places.

Rule 4. The agents of the commission for securing subscriptions to the stock in each State or Territory, shall be appointed in the following manner:—

The Centennial Commissioner and the alternate commissioner from each State or Territory, or either of them, in the absence of the other, together with such corporators for such State and Territory as may attend a meeting to be called by the commissioner or alternate for the purpose, shall designate one or more national or other banks, or one or more bankers in good standing, to receive subscriptions and the amounts paid thereon, and to issue said subscription certificates or receipts. The money so received shall be held by such banks or bankers subject to the order of The Centennial Board of Finance, when organized; and until such organization, to the order of the commissioner or alternate commissioner, and at least two of the said corporators for the State or Territory in which the fund is deposited.

Rule 5. The Executive Committee of the Commission will inform the commissioner and alternate commissioner of each State and Territory of the day on or before which the books are to be opened. The call for a meeting of the corporators shall be issued in season to secure a meeting and the designation of a bank or banks at which the subscriptions shall be received before the time arrives for opening the books. The commission will furnish blanks to be used in calling meetings, as aforesaid, in each State and Territory.

Rule 6. The one hundred days provided for by law shall date in each State and Territory from the time of opening the books of subscription in such State or Territory. After the expiration of the period of one hundred days the agents shall close and forward their respective books of subscriptions to the office of the commission in Philadelphia, retaining a duplicate registry of said subscriptions in their possession, blanks for which registry will be furnished by the commission.

Rule 7. Certificates of subscription shall not be issued until at least two dollars per share have been paid thereon; and when issued shall be properly filled out, dated, and signed by the agent, in accordance with rule 4, for the State or Territory. The marginal blank shall bear a number corresponding to that upon the subscription certificate, and shall also be duly filled out and be signed by the person to whom the certificate is delivered.

Rule 8. Applications for stock may be made in person to the agent, or by mail. Upon the receipt

of any such application by mail, accompanied by the required payment, the authorized agent shall transmit to the applicant a subscription as provided by rule 1, and shall fill up the marginal blank accordingly, and the application shall be correspondingly numbered and placed on file.

For the purpose of facilitating subscriptions for the stock, blank forms of application will be printed for distribution.

Rule 9. The following form of proxy may be used, and shall be distributed by the agents for the convenience of subscribers.

Form of Proxy for voting for the First Board of Directors of the Centennial Board of Finance.

(Incorporated by act of Congress, approved June 1, 1872.)

.....187

I do hereby authorize and empower.....for me and in my name to vote upon.....shares of stock in said corporation held by me, No.....at the meeting of the corporators and subscribers for said stock, called by the United States Centennial Commission, and to be held at Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of electing the First Board of Directors of said Corporation.

(Name of Subscriber.)

(Address.)

Rule 10. A copy of these rules will be furnished to each of the agents appointed, in accordance with Rule 4.

Here follows the table, which we published on Wednesday, showing the population of the States and Territories and the amount of stock of the Centennial Board of Finance to which they are severally entitled to subscribe.

State or Territory.	*Population.*	*Quota in Shares.*	*Quota in Dollars.*
New York	4,382,759	113,666	$1,136,660
Pennsylvania	3,521,951	91,341	913,410
Ohio	2,665,260	69,123	691,230
Illinois	2,539,891	65,871	658,710
Missouri	1,721,295	44,641	446,410
Indiana	1,680,637	43,587	435,870
Massachusetts	1,457,351	37,796	377,960
Kentucky	1,321,011	34,260	342,600
Tennessee	1,258,520	32,639	326,390
Virginia	1,225.163	31,774	317,740
Iowa	1,194,020	30,967	309,670
Georgia	1,184,109	30,719	307,100
Michigan	1,184,059	30,708	307,080
North Carolina	1,071,361	27,785	277,850
Wisconsin	1,054,670	27,353	273,530
Alabama	996,992	25,854	258.540
New Jersey	906,096	23,499	234,990
Mississippi	827,922	21,472	214,720
Texas	818,579	21,230	212,300
Maryland	780,894	20,252	202,520
Louisiana	726,915	18,852	188,520
South Carolina	705,606	18,300	183,000
Maine	626,915	16,258	162.580
California	560,247	14,530	145,300
Connnecticut	537,454	13,939	139,390
Arkansas	484.471	12,565	125,650
West Virginia	442,014	11,464	114,640
Minnesota	439,706	11,404	114,040
Kansas	364,399	9,450	94,500
Vermont	330,551	8,573	85,730
New Hampshire	318,300	8,255	82.550
Rhode Island	217,353	5,637	56,370
Florida	187,748	4,869	48,690
District of Columbia	131,700	3,417	34,170
Delaware	125,015	3,242	32,420
Nebraska	122,993	3,190	31,900
New Mexico	91,874	2,383	23,830
Oregon	90,923	2,359	23,590
Utah	86,786	2,251	22,510
Nevada	42,491	1,102	11,020
Colorado	39,864	1,034	10,340
Washington	23,955	621	6,210
Montana	20,595	534	5,340
Idaho	14,999	389	3,890
Dakota	14,181	368	3,680
Arizona	9,658	250	2,500
Wyoming	9,118	236	2,360
	38,558,371	1,000,000	$10,000,000

Hon. William Prescott Smith,

Of Maryland, was then called upon, and in response said:—This subject which you have given me for a text is so large a one that it is impossible to exhaust it. In common with all the commissioners I have taken a deep interest in the object to be attained. The public are very little aware of the magnitude of this undertaking, and less aware of the great preparations to be made and those already made looking to a successful termination of the project. Speaking for my own State, I am quite sure that the movement meets with no opposition or even indifference there. When better understood, however, it will meet with patriotic and substantial responses, not only from us but from every section in the Union. Americans are a people whom it is necessary to get up to the highest pitch before determination and great results follow. If the plans as now laid down are put into operation great will be the responses from the entire population of the country. The first response should come from Pennsylvania, the State in which the great event is to be held. This will give the great impelling power to the final success of the exhibition. It is a noble and patriotic purpose, a purpose if carried out which will not only redound to the credit and prosperity of the country and the overwhelming advance of Philadelphia, but reflect credit on the American name and add largely to that feeling of national pride of which our citizens are so justly celebrated.

The eagle occupies a prominent part in our thoughts and speeches, and I never feel happier than when I hear an orator on the stump discoursing on a national theme. He may be, as most Americans are perhaps, platitudinous; but, nevertheless, when his country and her renown is his theme, he may be allowed to gush. (Applause.) With the subject before us there is a great deal to be done. An old friend of mine told me during the war that if we failed in the fight it would be for the want of "per-

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vailables." One consideration to be met is the fear of local jealousy. Baltimore having steamboat lines feels no jealousy. (Laughter.) We shake hands with you on this subject, and will extend every aid possible to make the exhibition a success. Boston, like Philadelphia, had a great deal to do with cradling this event which we are about to commemorate. Then there remains the great commercial centre, political and financial, too, which will materially assist in the good work. We cannot but feel that New York will give us her aid, and earnestly co-operate in the cause, and I call upon the Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn, of New York, as the representative of that great State.

Speech of Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn.

Mr. Pruyn said:—Unless you are entirely impressed with the general consideration which alludes to this matter of the exhibition; unless what has occurred in the past eighteen months has aroused our interest in this subject, I should utterly despair of attempting to say anything now which would lead you to think and do that which your position and all the circumstances of this occasion require. As to the question of the locality of the exhibition, and the influence which it may exercise, I can only say that, so far as New York is concerned, I never have heard a word of disapprobation to the legislation of Congress which fixed upon Philadelphia as the site of the exhibition for reasons stated in the preamble of the act, which, I think, are satisfactory to all the country. (Applause.) And I believe that New York, when the time comes, will thoroughly and cordially unite in doing everything in its power and within its duty toward promoting the interests and toward advancing the character, if it were possible, of this exhibition. To adopt the playful tune, I might complain, as did Mr. Smith, on that subject more justly than anybody else, for I came first from the city of Albany, in which we started the ball rolling in 1751, where the first meeting of delegates was held, at which Dr. Franklin was present, and at which time the first organized movement took place in favor of American unity for the protection of our rights and our liberties. I frankly admit, however, that we in New York have never complained of the decision of Congress, and concede everything to Philadelphia. (Applause.) And now, sir, supposing that the magnitude of this exhibition is thoroughly appreciated and understood by the people of Philadelphia, I want to add a few words in regard to the financial aspect of the affair, and in regard to the means to be used for the purpose of insuring its success. And I wish to say at the outset, and thinking, as do the members of the commission, that in organizing this exhibition, if for no other reasons than those set out in the preamble of the act of Congress, the General Government ought to have provided everything requisite for this purpose, whether the exhibition was in Philadelphia, or in New York, or in any other place. I think every intellinent American regrets that the government did not do so. For if we wish really that this centennial exhibition should be marked by everything which characterizes the growth and prosperity and the power of our country, it becomes the duty of the whole country to see that it is properly inaugurated and carried out.

I have lately felt mortified in regard to this matter when called on to explain the circumstances attending the progress of this affair by people abroad. I have recently returned from Europe, and I will have something to say about the Vienna Exhibition. My mortification has been great that our government should have said at the outset in this act that this is a great occasion, to be marked by appropriate ceremonies, and that the exhibition is to do everything which can tend to lift up the country above all the days of the past century, and still added the words, "but it shall not cost us one dollar." This is the humiliating position we are placed in before the world. It is true that even if Congress had made an appropriation which would be adequate for this purpose there would have been enough incidental expenses to have fallen upon the people of this locality, without taxing them any more. Now that a scheme is presented to raise money, a scheme that is more of a commercial than a patriotic one, let us do all we can to carry it out.

The speaker continued at some length to review the scheme under consideration. He thought the railroad corporations would take largely of the stock, but much would depend upon the action of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. At least five millions of dollars would have to be raised at once to make this project a success. The way of raising this money must now be fixed. This work must drop unless money is forthcoming promptly. We have not a day to spare in this matter. The history of other expositions shows a great weakness in the matter of raising money in advance. That of Austria now lags in importance from the fact that the funds are insufficient. Everybody should subscribe from motives of patriotism, and not from the mere hope of gain. Profit may and will come, but this should not be made the bare and only motive of patronage. We should be assured by next May that we have adequate funds for the carrying out of the project.

Mr. Pruyn alluded to the fact that the United States would be but poorly represented at the Vienna Exposition in 1873, in consequence of the fact that no funds had been provided for the expenses of the commissioner to that exposition, and stated that if we take no interest in the Austrian Exposition Austria will take very little in ours. He proposed that Philadelphia and other corporations, and merchants, manufacturers and inventors, throughout the country, should subscribe some thousands of dollars, in order to enable our commissioner, Mr. Van Buren, to make a fair representation of the resources and products of our country, and perhaps they can send one or more representatives from Philadelphia.

The speaker then read extracts from a letter from Vienna, showing how an American citizen there received the action of our government in reference to the Vienna Exposition, and giving a

detailed description of the buildings now in course of erection for the event. Instead of giving the extracts, we herewith print the letter in full:—

The Vienna Exposition.

VIENNA, July 31, 1872.—The Honorable Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.—Sir:—The gigantic preparations going on in this city for the international exhibition, to be held in Vienna next summer, and the measures which not only European Governments, but also the remotest countries of the world are taking, to be able to participate in this grand enterprise, could not but excite my surprise at the inactivity of the United States, which I can only account for by attributing it to the want of suitable information as to the nature and magnitude of this exhibition.

The impressions I have gained from a residence of nearly twenty years in the United States gave me the decided conviction that the American people could as readily as other nations contribute to this general work for the benefit of all mankind, by exhibiting the evidences of American skill, should the opportunity be presented to them by our government, as it deserves.

Acting under this persuasion I took the liberty of writing, already in March of the present year, a letter on the subject as an American citizen, to the Hon. John Jay, our representative at the Imperial Court of Vienna. A reply from the American legation informed me that a copy of my communication would be transmitted to your department. In doing myself the honor to address you to-day, without being called upon to give my further humble views, I do so actuated by the desire of being serviceable to the people of the United States.

It is greatly to be regretted that the first resolution of our Congress relative to the exhibition should comprise no further steps than the one taken. What has been done so far appears as if it had merely been rushed through before adjournment, as an act of courtesy to the Austrian Government without the main question being at all ventilated, viz., How to secure to the people the full benefits to be derived from the occasion; for it is impossible to suppose that Congress did not attach so much value to the vast amount of knowledge that must result from such a competition of nations as not at least to vote the expenses of sending over also scientific men for the acquirement of such knowledge, since all the world will be more or less represented, and, at all events, Austria and the whole Empire of Germany will come forth with their entire industrial and artistic strength.

Truly discouraging in this resolution is the indifference shown about providing for the compensation of professional persons to study the useful combinations of science and industrial art, which in many cases can only be done by examination of models and specimens, as also about facilitating to our citizens the attendance at the exhibition, which they can only arrive at in the way prescribed by the general regulations. However, I think the American people, so justly proud of their nationality, when duly informed of the character of the exhibition, and of our present position with regard to the undertaking, will soon manifest so great an interest in it as to induce the Executive Government to take upon itself the responsibility incurred by an anticipation of subsequent resolutions of Congress. This question will certainly present itself to you, and as the feasibility of such a proceeding was shown on the occasion of 1867 (Paris), fully approved of by Congress on the 15th of July, 1866, and thus a precedent established, I may confidently trust that the extraordinary circumstances prevailing in this instance, will elicit a decision in favor of the same proceeding.

In consequence of the delay which has occurred with us in initiating and organizing the work in conformity with the general regulation useless applications for space from nearly all our States are daily coming to the chief manager, and also, very frequently, inquiries to the American consulate in this city. This affords the proofs that the benefits from the exhibition are well appreciated by our people. I, therefore, feel no hesitation in most respectfully soliciting your attention to the subject and to the danger I apprehend that, unless we can make up for the time that has already been lost, we shall never succeed in effecting anything like a fair representation of the industrial and natural resources of the country. For the attainment of this end allow me to suggest that the most efficient measures would no doubt be to establish as soon as possible a central office for applications from all States, in New York, under the authority and auspices of your department, and to distribute and publish an official pamphlet containing the proper directions

Further appointments of commissioners will not come too late when Congress meets in December, and it will probably be easier after the elections to find, besides the professional men, a sufficient number of commissioners who are qualified and have the leisure and inclination for the duties of their office. But it is evident that some official steps should at once be taken to convey to the public means of knowing how to act. If this is done a good deal may yet be accomplished. The programmes and regulations comprising all the needful information have been sent to you through the Austrian representative at Washington, and also by Mr. Fay.

The work of many of the foreign commissioners not being far enough advanced to enable them to apprise the chief manager about what space they will require, no more applications are accepted for the present from Austria and Germany. The actual entries in Austria now amount to 14,000, and Germany till now contributes about 8000 exhibitors.

The leading idea is to show how practical science has been applied to industry in the different countries of the universe, and the Americans, occupying, in this respect, so high a rank, their contributions are naturally esteemed of great importance, so that as I was glad to find, Baron Schwarz intends to reserve the space for us as long as possible.

The buildings erected for the exhibition are of a

grandeur hitherto unexampled. They are admirably situated in the Imperial Park, called the "Prater," close to the city, and will probably be completed and ready by the end of November. Nearly five thousand men are constantly engaged on the grounds. The principal places for general exhibition, excepting for machinery, agriculture and fine arts, there being separate buildings for these, is 3000 feet in height by 80 in width, intersected at right angles by 32 buildings. each 250 feet deep and 50 feet wide, with independent entrances from the park. Over each entrance the name and colors of the country will be displayed to which the departments belong, and the different countries will occupy the latter, according to their geographical position, Japan at the eastern, and the United States at the western end of the palace.

It is obvious that in order to make good use of the space allotted to us at least the same official aid to our people is required as was given to them for the Universal Exposition of Paris in 1867.

Regarding the monetary provision by Congress, permit me to mention that for instance the Government of Switzerland, such a very small country in comparison to ours, has appropriated 400,000 francs, and the French Government, after first refusing to allow funds for the purpose, saying that all the money they could raise was needed for paying off the debt of war still due to Germany, has finally granted 1,500 000 francs.

If our display in the palace on the western end, which happens to be nearest to the city, should fail to do credit to the Stars and Stripes proudly waving above it, owing to Congress not having afforded the proper aid, this would hardly be considered by Europeans in harmony with the astonishing financial display of our country. Such a failure might be construed as an apprehension on our part to lose the reputation we have conquered in London and Paris through the exertions of comparatively but few exhibitors.

I beg to repeat the statement I made in my letter to Mr. Jay, that I should be unable to accept an appointment, and may now say that, remaining in Vienna until after the exhibition, I shall be happy to have it in my power to make my services in a private way acceptable to any of the gentlemen belonging to an American commission.

In conclusion, let me add that a law was lately passed by both houses of the Austrian Parliament for the protection of foreign objects in the exhibition against piracy of inventions and designs, every foreign exhibitor can apply for a certificate, which secures to him the priority for obtaining an Austrian patent for his article, and such certificate will be issued free of charge. Moreover, I hear from Mr. Kirch, an American citizen, representing in this city the large manufacturing interest of Wheeler & Wilson, in New York, that the Austrian Government, in a correspondence opened with the American legation, is showing a disposition to concede to Americans (in deviation of the existing regulations for patents) the right to import from the United States their articles patented in Austria without losing their patent when not manufacturing here. Thus the Austrian Government is doing all in their power to favor us.

Hoping that my desire to see the space which is reserved for the United States occupied creditably by our country will be accepted by you as an apology for my suggestions, I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK HORNBOSTEL.

The Chair hoped that the meeting would hear from some representative of Philadelphia.

Remarks of General Wagner.

General Louis Wagner, president of Common Council, then arose and said:—

I regret very much the absence of the Mayor of Philadelphia, who represents this municipality, and the president of Select Council being likewise absent, I feel it my duty to respond. I am pleased to say that the City Councils have met all the expenses of the commission thus far. and voted upon the appropriation unanimously. We fully appreciate the importance of the movement and the benefits to arise to Philadelphia from the holding of the exposition in this city.

But with reference to the expenses of building the structures, he would say that under the constitutional law the city could not subscribe to the stock. Upon my own responsibility I am perfectly safe in saying that whatever amount Philadelphia may be called upon to give she will give it cheerfully. Our merchants, bankers, business men and corporations will no doubt subscribe liberally. They are present and can speak for themselves. Philadelphia, I am prepared to say, will not be behind in this movement. She fully appreciates the mark of honor conferred upon her by the General Government in selecting this city as the site for the great exposition. The enterprise shall not fail for the want of funds. The character and credit of Philadelphia will not permit it.

James L. Claghorn, Esq.,

Then offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting, after consultation with citizens, be requested to appoint a committee of ten to provide means for the preliminary expenses of the commission.

Samuel G. King, Esq.,

Seconded the resolution. He had no fear that the exhibition would prove a failure. Far from it. The resolution offered was a practical solution of the problem. He advocated the appointment of auxiliary committees, and advised the General Committee to commence work at once. He knew that Philadelphia would be the first to respond, and her subscriptions would be liberal and freely given.

The Chair then put the resolution, and it was unanimously carried.

Speech of Hon. John Scott.

The Hon. John Scott, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, was called upon for a few remarks. In response, he said:—

I have, in common with every citizen of Philadelphia, watched with interest the initiatory steps and progress of the movement intended to bring about the great exposition in 1876. The official position I occupy requires that the pleasure I take in this movement shall be made a duty, and, therefore, I give expression to it. The enterprise has passed its period of opposition.

There was an apparent opposition to it at one time in a certain quarter, but now that it has disappeared, we hope to have a hearty co-operation from that same quarter. We now come down to the practical point of this enterprise, and it strikes me upon recurring to the act of incorporation that all that is necessary to make it a success is to carry out the suggestions of that act. My only regret is that there was not enough patriotic feeling in Congress to give you an appropriation. The first thing to be done is to put each of the representatives at large and those in the districts at work. Let them rouse up the people to the importance of the movement, and I venture to assert that flattering responses will be made from every section of the country, and there will be no necessity of an appeal to the commercial or speculative world. It should be their duty to see that the people were fully acquainted with the object and importance of the undertaking.

Then if, after one hundred days have elapsed, the total amount is not realized, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia alone should put their shoulders to the wheel and let not the project fail. I cannot see that there will be any necessity of an appeal to the commercial men of the country. The memory of Robert Morris alone should inspire the people of this city to a full realization of their duty, and if there were nothing else the industrial interests should bear the burden and make the exhibition a success. Then we will show that our country in a hundred years has planted more mile stones on the highway of progress than any other country in the world. (Applause.)

Commissioner Adams, of Florida.

J. S. Adams, Commissioner of Florida, was then called upon, and in a brief address asserted that we have only to publish our plans, and our forty millions of people will promptly furnish the funds. Tell the people what a monument to our country's greatness you propose to build, and there is not a widow in the land who would not scrape up money enough to take a share. (Applause.) This might be called "gush," but it is the kind of sentiment we need now, as it was the sentiment that urged our fathers to give us the heirloom of liberty we have here. (Applause.) We have the machinery all here and the power, but what we need is the putting of it in gear. When that is accomplished the great centennial will be a success.

Speech of Hon. Leonard Myers.

The Hon. Leonard Myers, upon call, then addressed the meeting. He said:—I only rise to your call to compliment the Centennial Commissioners and the Executive Committee upon their proceedings, and upon the steps taken thus far toward rendering a success a celebration which cannot fail to prove a benefit to this country. There has been no delay except that which was natural under the circumstances, and the project therefore must be a grand success. Every American must feel a pride in the great event, which gathers together the world's products and establishes the growth of our country. This meeting is for practical purposes. My friend Pruyn, of New York, has spoken of the fact that Congress failed to make any appropriation for the purpose. You must remember that a great many of the Congressmen are endowed with an economical spirit—especially those coming from the rural districts.

I cannot fail to say that the appropriation was never asked. The Franklin Institute in this city, which first broached the subject, offered to erect the buildings, but it has not been done, because when an application was made to the Legislature to incorporate a company to raise the means, the patriotic members of the United States Commission, and I thank them for it, said "No, it will then be termed a local matter; let us make it national." Subsequently it assumed a national character, and the act of incorporation was passed. He could see no drawback at present. An appropriation of $20,000 should have been inserted in the bill creating the board of finance, to pay for the printing of the certificates. This would have been done had not the bills been hurried through prior to adjournment, but had no doubt it would yet be made. The secretary is bound to print them. If the sum is guaranteed he knew the work would be commenced at once, I am glad to know that the corporators selected in each case are men of the very best class, and I hope they will meet—the whole seven hundred and twenty—in this city. I believe it will be the greatest and wisest convention ever held here. (Applause.) We are now upon the very threshold of the project, and when we go out to the country our appeal will meet with a hearty response.

Colonel Daniels, of Virginia.

Colonel Daniels, of Richmond, Virginia, was the next speaker. He said:—Virginia, as you know, lies to-day prostrate, financially, impoverished by a false system of industry and the theatre of a five years' war. She now turns to her early days, and the sentiments of the great men who wrote their names with Morris and Hancock, and shared the privations and trials of our early history. Whatever may be said of Virginia; what may have been her errors, all her people remember that time, and they will strive to commemorate the event and make it a success. They will talk over this centennial, they will gather from mountain sides and bring with them their products. If they do not give you money they will give you assurances of their patriotism. Virginia will stand side by side with Pennsylvania in the great industrial resources. She is going to accept the idea of nationality, go back and imbibe the old spirit. She will be the

new Virginia, and one of the great resources of strength in the edifice of the future. She may ask you to pay some of her share in establishing the great exposition, but she will pay back five hundred fold in the future in patriotic love, in emulating your industrial achievement hereafter. (Applause.)

J. B. Lippincott, Esq.

Mr. William Prescott Smith at this time addressed the chair, saying that Mr. J. B. Lippincott, of this city, who had just left the room, had proposed to be instrumental in raising $1,000,000 for the Centennial Board of Finance. He hoped he (Mr. L.) would be made a member of the Committee of Ten under the resolution adopted. (Applause).

The Chair answered that he would see that the gentleman was made one of the committee.

Colonel J. Ross Snowden.

Colonel J. Ross Snowden, chairman of the Centennial Committee of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, was then called upon for a few remarks, and, in response, returned thanks to the gentlemen of the commission for the efforts made by them in bringing about success to the great event, which he hoped would overshadow all expositions of the kind ever held in the world. He advised the commissioners to go on; that the impulse of the country would sustain them. Pennsylvania and Philadelphia would do their share, and other sections of the country would nobly respond.

He wanted to see the exhibition a success in a commercial point of view, and he had no doubt but that would be the case. He thought that a single medal, if sold, would bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars. In conclusion, Mr. Snowden said he was delighted to hear the views of the gentlemen present, and the occasion appeared to him to be a renewal of the 4th of July, 1776.

John V. L. Pruyn, of New York,

Said he hoped he had been understood. He was gratified to find such a concentrated and patriotic spirit prevailing among the people of this State and city, and from what they had said he predicted a successful termination of the movement. If other States failed Philadelphia would step in and do all, was a remark which he was pleased to hear.

Adjournment.

On motion the meeting then adjourned.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The closing session of the Executive Committee for the present was held at the Continental Hotel last evening, Mr. Morrell in the chair.

Robert H. Lamborn, member of the commission from Wyoming, and A. J. Sweeney, member from West Virginia, were present,

The committee had a long, laborious and important meeting, and did not adjourn until after eleven o'clock.

Some of the members of the committee who have not previously visited the Park, went out yesterday afternoon in the rain and viewed the grounds in order to be more familiar with the place where the proposed exposition is to be held, and to become familiar with the capability of the place.

After their return the committee went into executive session at the Continental, parlor 16. The time of opening the exposition was considered, and some details concerning the rules and various subjects affecting the preparations of the organization of the Centennial Board of Finance, and the subject of informing the people of the work of the commission, and what was necessary to be done towards the exposition, were discussed.

The proposed visit of the Committee of Thirteen, appointed at the last general meeting in Philadelphia to visit Cincinnati, was brought up. There is to be at Cincinnati a meeting of the Committee on Classification, and from present indications it would appear that there will be a quorum of the entire commission present at that place on the 11th of September next.

Since the last meeting here the invitation to attend has been made general, and it is probable that more than a quorum of the commission will go, so that an informal meeting may possibly be held there before the one in December in this city.

A number of matters of minor importance were left to be arranged by Mr. Morrell, as chairman of the Executive Committee, such as the appointment of the committee of ten, alluded to in the report of the meeting at Independence Hall in the morning.

Editorial Notice from The Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 30, 1872.

July Fourth, 1876.

Yesterday the Executive Committee of the Centennial Commission assembled in our city, and were joined by a large number of our citizens prominent in mercantile, financial and professional circles. There was a free interchange of opinions between the commissioners and Philadelphians, the end sought to be gained by the assemblage being the preliminary means needed for a proper celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the nation in the city where it was founded, and the fact of its existence proclaimed, in no uncertain tones, to all the world.

A spirit of hearty enthusiasm pervaded the meeting of yesterday, commissoners and citizens expressing a determination to leave nothing undone which would in the least contribute to a proper celebration of the first centennial of the American Repnblic. Certainly men never had higher motives to spur them on in the fulfilment of a grand undertaking than have the Centennial Commissioners and the citizens of our own city. The centenary we are to celebrate commemorates

the one hundredth anniversary of a marvel among nations ancient and modern. Under Providence three millions of people scattered along a narrow margin of the Atlantic seaboard in 1776, without money, credit, forts, army, navy, or aught else to constitute a nation, proclaimed themselves free and independent. And in ninety-six years of growth they raised their banner high among the highest of the powers of the earth, respected, feared, looked up to with wonder and admiration. Rich in all the elements of material wealth, now as ninety-six years ago, free and independent, a refuge for the oppressed throughout the world, the three millions of people swollen to forty millions, with an area of land still unoccupied greater in extent than all the settled districts combined, and thrown open freely to all who choose to come and avail themselves of the advantages of a rich country and a free government—enough and more than enough to make the most staid and matter-of-fact people dizzy with a justifiable pride. It behooves Americans, therefore, and especially Philadelphians, to continue diligent in the good work of preparing for the centennial. The time for its celebration is still distant, but a task of more than ordinary magnitude is to be performed meanwhile. The commissioners have done, and are doing, well, and they deserve the hearty co-operation, not only of Philadelphians, but of all Americans, and of friends of freedom everywhere. The Fourth of July, 1876, will be an anniversary for liberty throughout the world, with its headquarters in the city from whence the bells first proclaimed the glad boon of freedom to men, irrespective of color, creed or country.

Editorial Notice from the Public Ledger and Daily Transcript, Philadelphia, Aug. 30, 1872.

The "Centennial" Meeting.

If the Fourth of July, 1876, and its great Centennial Exposition were not four years distant in the future, there would have been no occasion for such a meeting as that held yesterday. Nor would there have been any necessity for such a meeting in any other of the great nations of the world. But here in our country it happens that the people have become so accustomed to seeing the work of generations begun and finished within a few years, to compressing the labor of years into a few months, that they are slow to comprehend the necessity of preparing for a celebration while the day to be celebrated is yet four years away in futurity. It is, therefore, necessary to stimulate them into action by impressing it forcibly upon their minds that there are some works in which time, and long periods of time too, are indispensable for preparation; that such a work as the International Exhibition to be held in 1876 is one of them; and that the three years and ten months which now intervene between us and the Grand Centennial are not a month too long for the adequate accomplishment of what is to be done. The people of Great Britain and of France were made to comprehend this without difficulty when the plans, the ways and means, and so forth, of their great expositions were under consideration, and they commenced *action* when the days of opening were yet far off. But, as we have said, it is quite different with Americans, and the difficulty of getting them to begin the active work of preparation four years in advance, makes such an effort as that of yesterday a necessity.

It is not to be understood, however, that no work has been done. Thanks to the industry and devotion of the Centennial Commissioners, and to the zeal and attention of our local committees, a great deal has been accomplished. Their duties, as far as they have the present ability to proceed, have been fully discharged and well discharged. They have now arrived at that point when but little progress can be made without the aid of the great motor of all such enterprises—money. A work that requires millions of dollars, and for which the requisite millions will unquestionably be forthcoming, is now retarded because of the lack of the few thousands necessary to pay for the engraving and printing of the certificates of stock for the ten millions authorized by act of Congress to be raised by the Centennial Board of Finance. This is about the same as if the machinery of a great manufacturing establishment were at a standstill for want of cash to buy a box of matches to set fire to the fuel under the steam boilers. Congress, in its haste at the close of the last session, left the affairs of the Centennial Board of Finance in this condition. The board was authorized to raise ten millions of dollars; the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized and directed to have the certificates of stock engraved and printed; and then Congress

adjourned without appropriating the twenty thousand dollars or so to pay for the plates, the paper and the printing. It will not do to wait until the next session of Congress for the money, and the secretary cannot, without personal risk, expend money not appropriated. The cash will, therefore, have to be advanced. How to get the advance, as we understand the matter, is one of the questions pressing upon the Centennial Commissioners, and one of the impelling causes of the meeting yesterday. There ought to be no difficulty whatever about that matter. We do not believe there is any difficulty, except what arises out of the natural hesitancy on the part of many gentlemen in making appeals for money aid. If that sum cannot be guaranteed in this town, it will be a new thing in the history of Philadelphia. There should be no delay in putting the matter to a practical test.

With respect to other phases of the subject mentioned in the discussion, yesterday, we entirely concur with Mr. Prescott Smith, of Maryland, and Mr. Pruyn, of New York, that Philadelphia should take the active lead in subscriptions to the capital to be raised by the Board of Finance. We do not doubt that she will whenever the opportunity shall be presented. The quota of less than a million of dollars apportioned to the State of Pennsylvania should all be subscribed in Philadelphia alone, leaving to the rest of the State the honor of taking whatever may remain unabsorbed of the quotas apportioned to other States There are more than a hundred thousand people in this city who can well afford to subscribe and pay for, on such easy terms, an average of one share apiece—there are more than five hundred thousand such people in the State. But as yet, for the reasons already stated, there are no subscription books open. Get them ready, and we shall soon have, not only Philadelphia taking the lead as suggested, but the whole United States at work.

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